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Trent

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(54) **SLEEP/WAKE BASED ON COVERAGE**

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May 29, 2020, now Pat. No. 11,032,767, which is a
continuation of application No. 15/973,870, filed on
May 8, 2018, now Pat. No. 10,674,446.

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H04W 4/02 (2018.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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CPC **H04W 52/0225** (2013.01); **H04W 4/02**
(2013.01)

Embodiments for a module for scheduling sleep/wake inter-
vals for a first one or more communication devices are
disclosed. The module includes a computer readable
medium having instructions thereon. The instructions, when
executed by one or more processing devices, cause the one
or more processing devices to obtain a coverage prediction
for the one or more mobile communication devices. The
coverage prediction indicates a start and an end of at least
one future interval during which one or more orbiting
communication platforms are predicted to be within range of
the one or more mobile communication devices. The instruc-
tions also cause the one or more processing devices to
generate at least one future sleep interval having a start
and an end and at least one future wake interval having a start
and an end to control the one or more mobile communication
devices based on the coverage prediction.

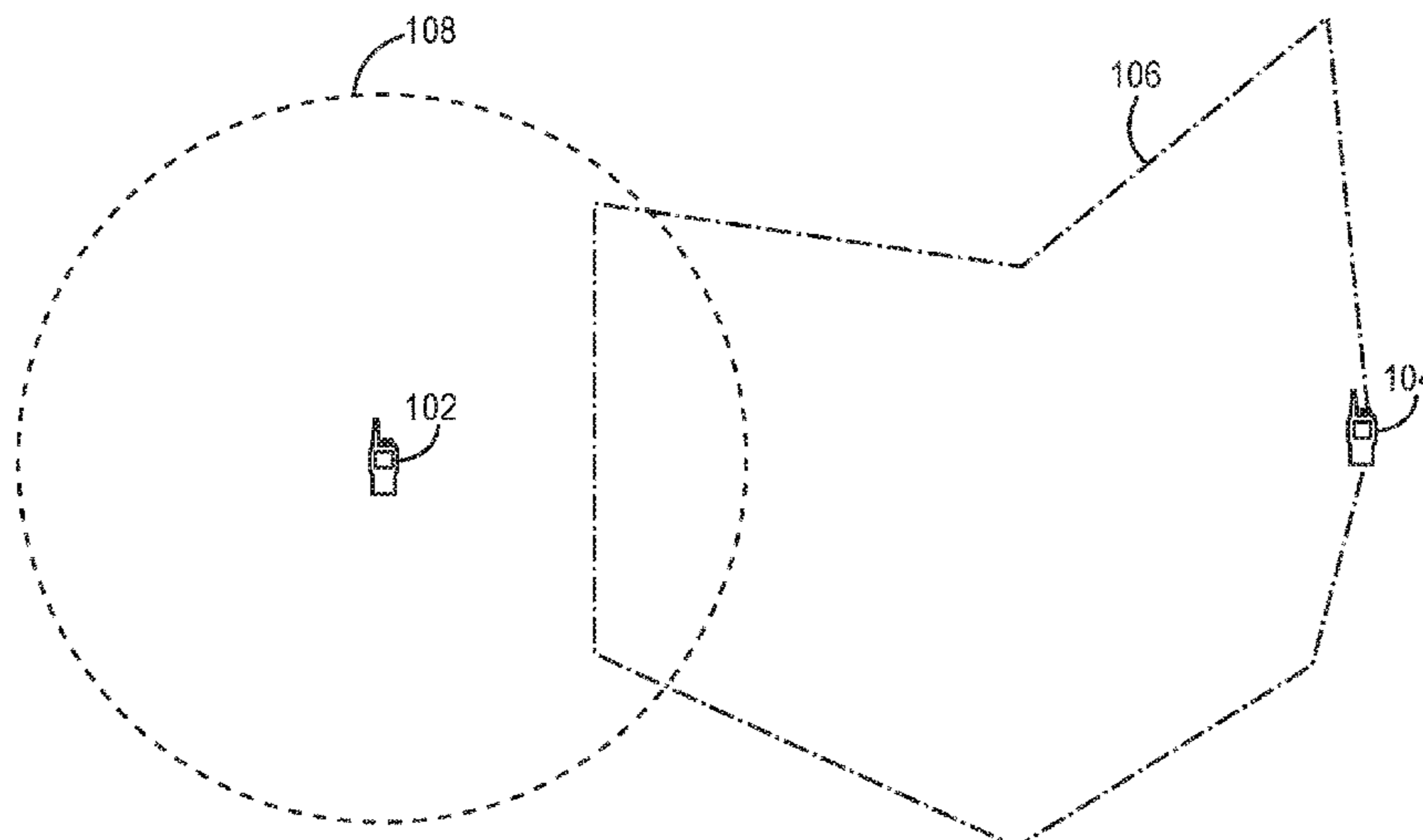
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H04B 7/0417; H04B 17/318
USPC 370/328, 329, 330, 331; 455/458, 574
See application file for complete search history.

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21 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



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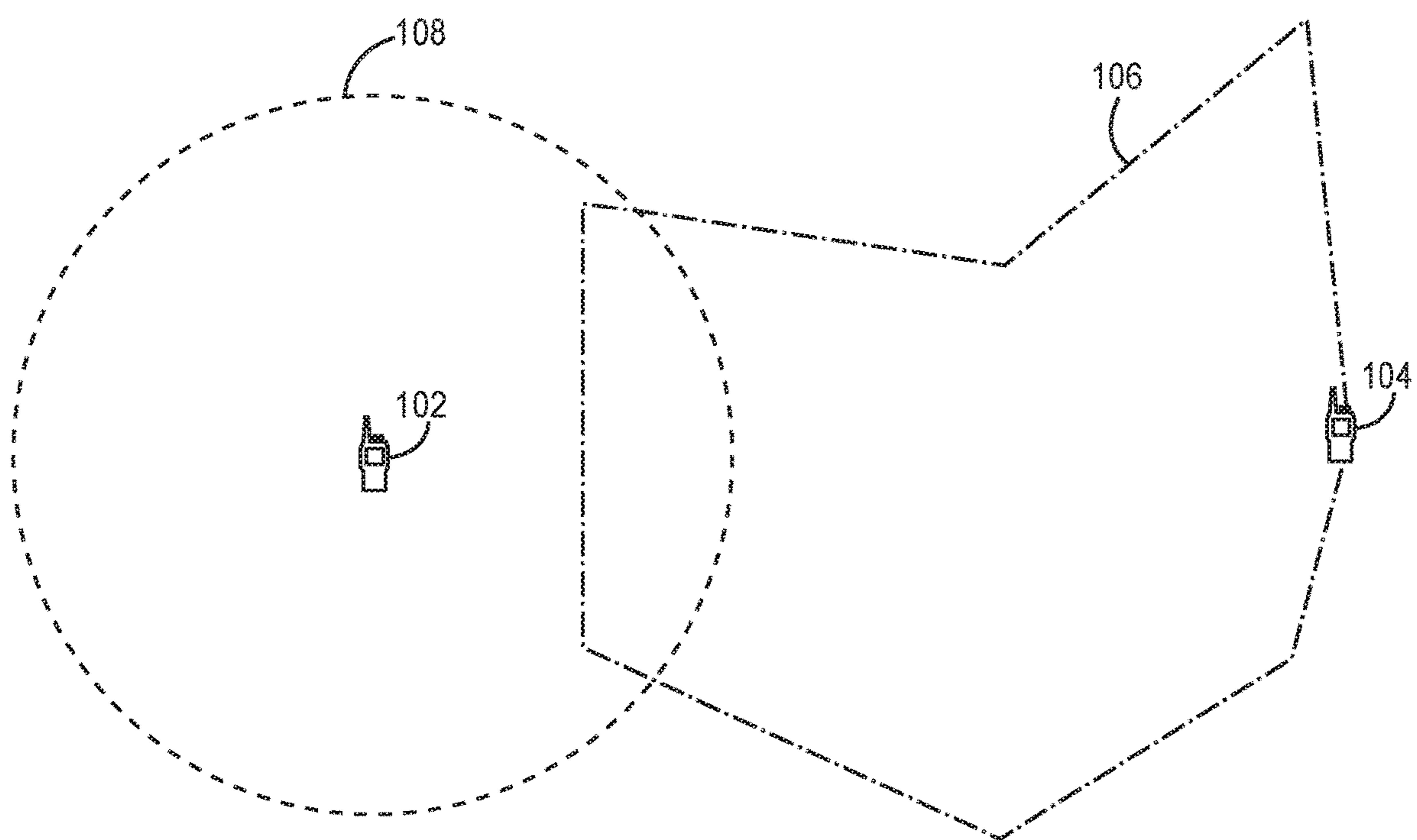


FIG. 1

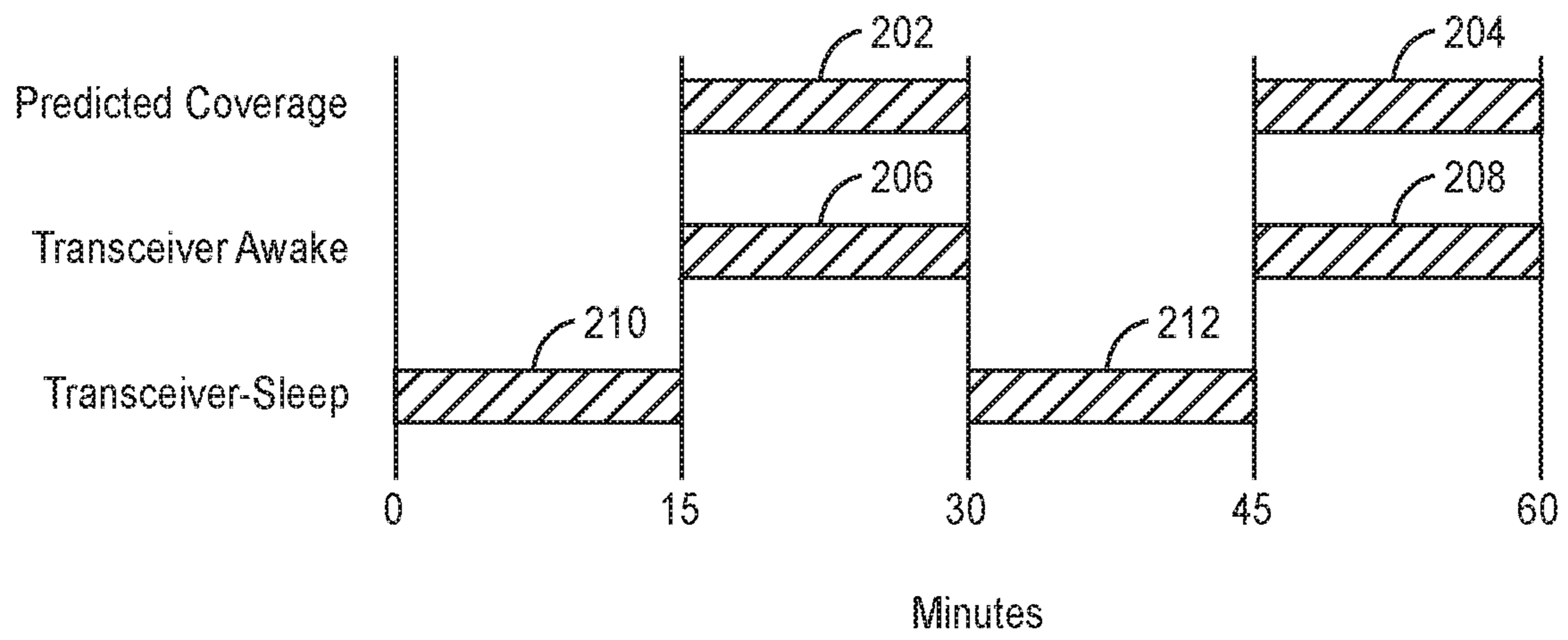


FIG. 2

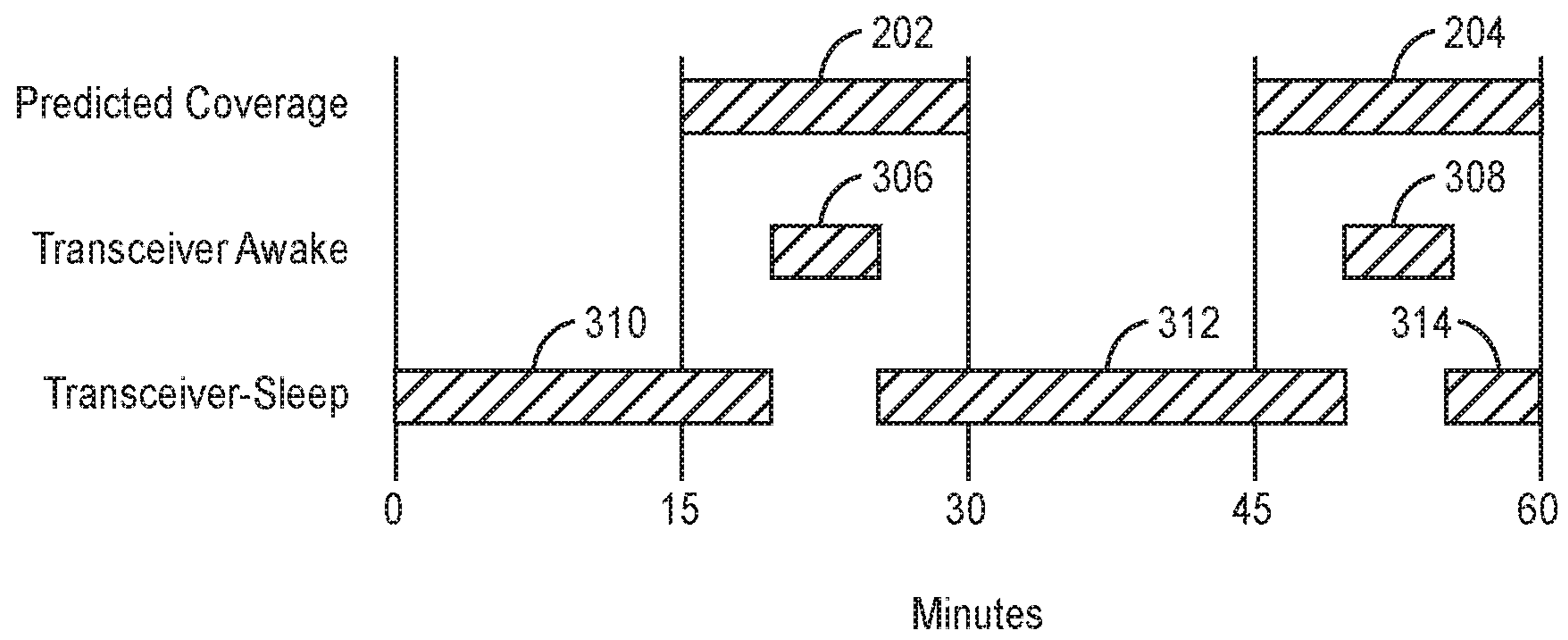


FIG. 3

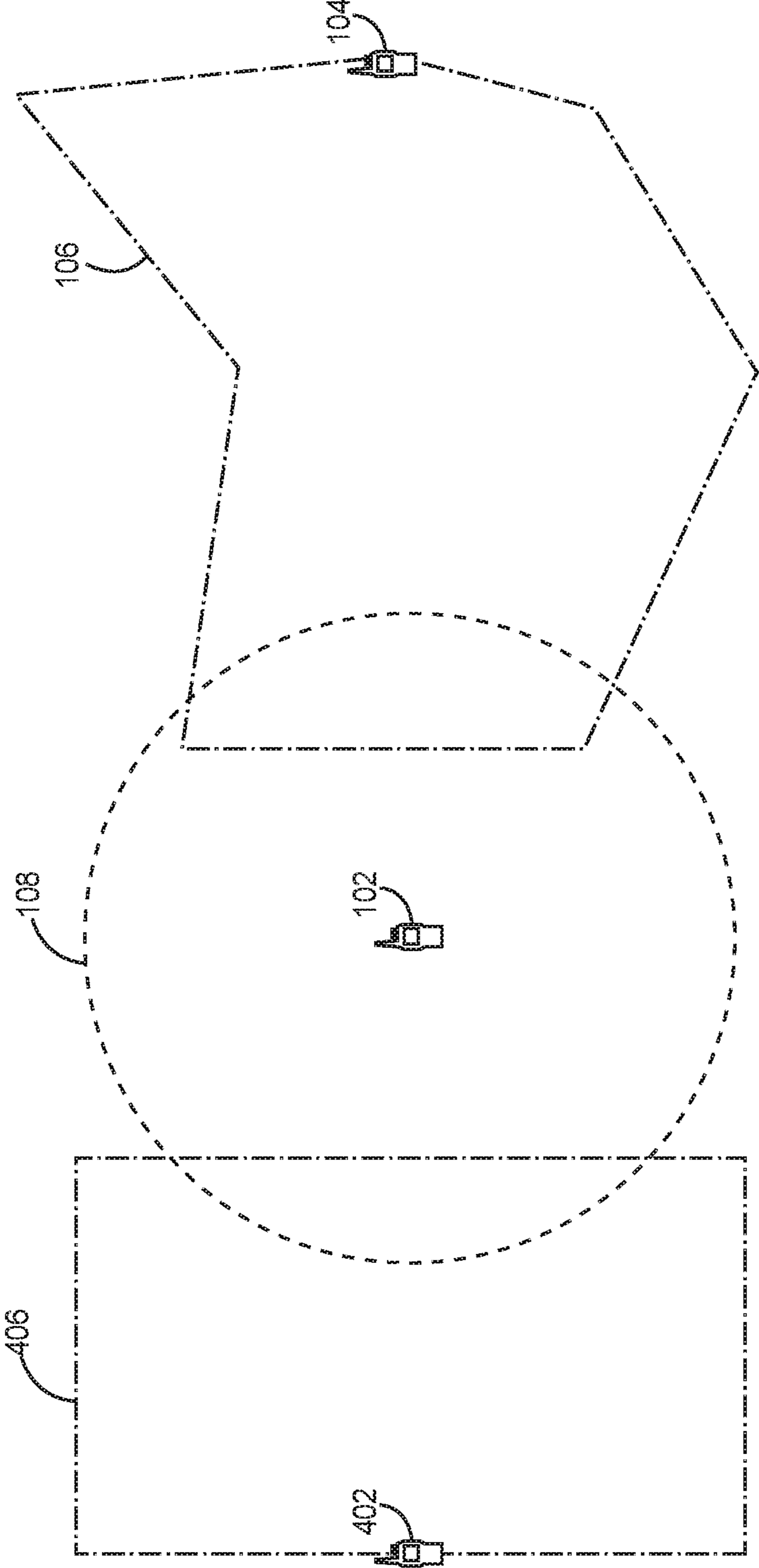


FIG. 4

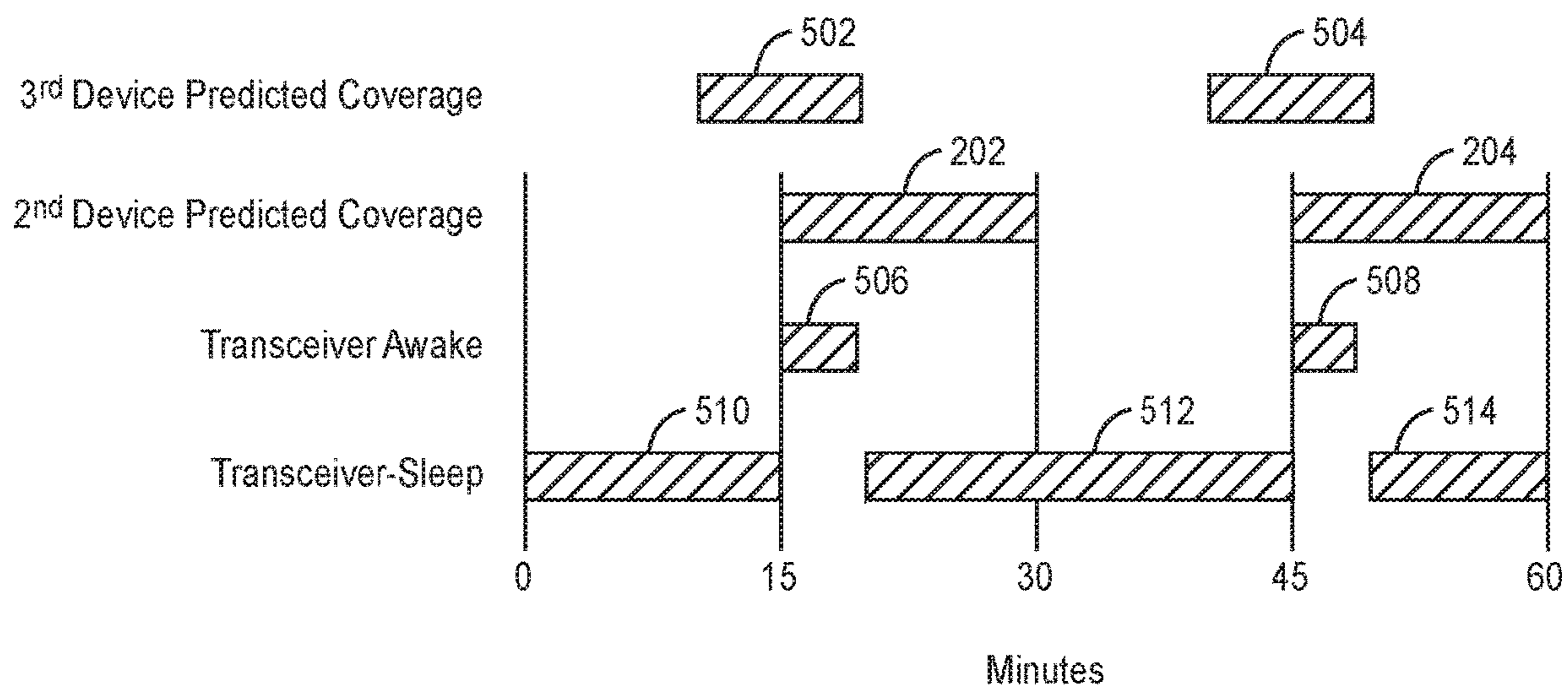


FIG. 5

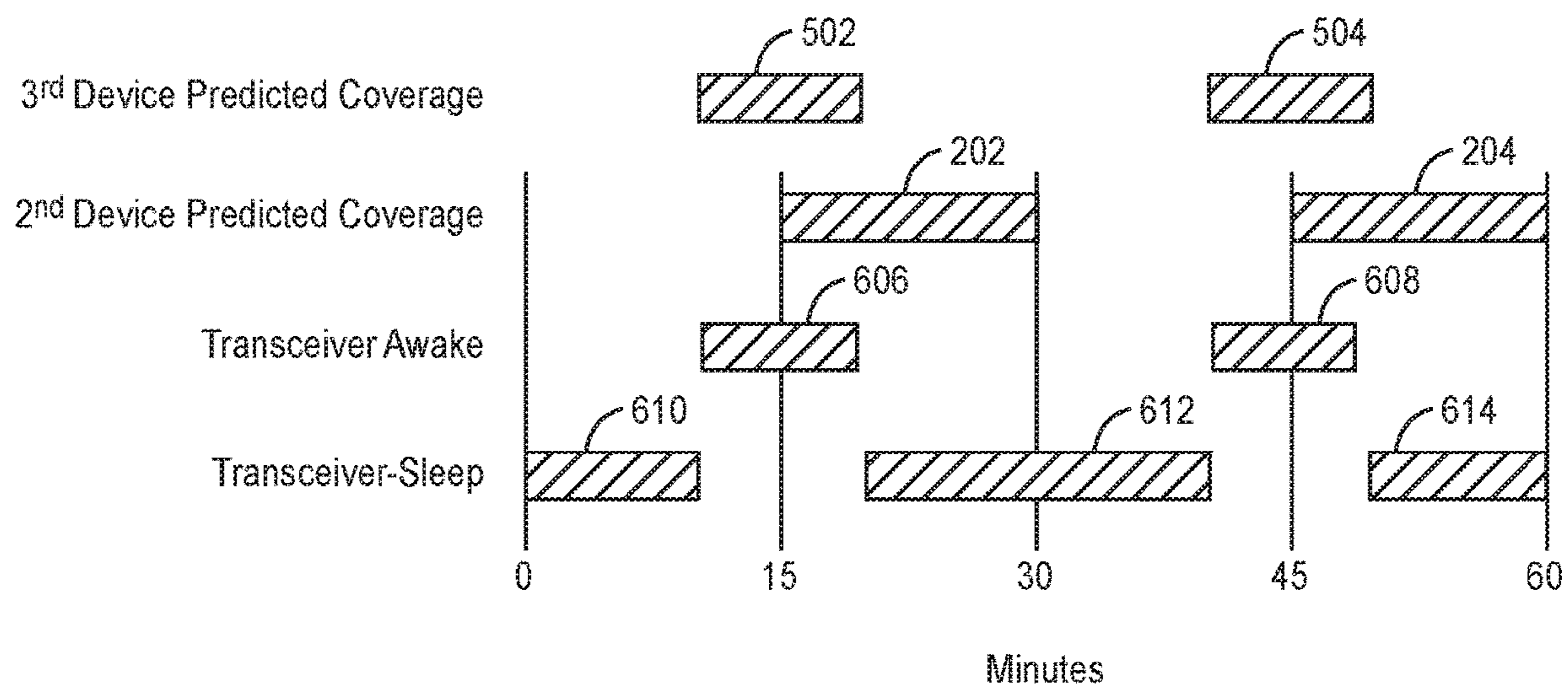


FIG. 6

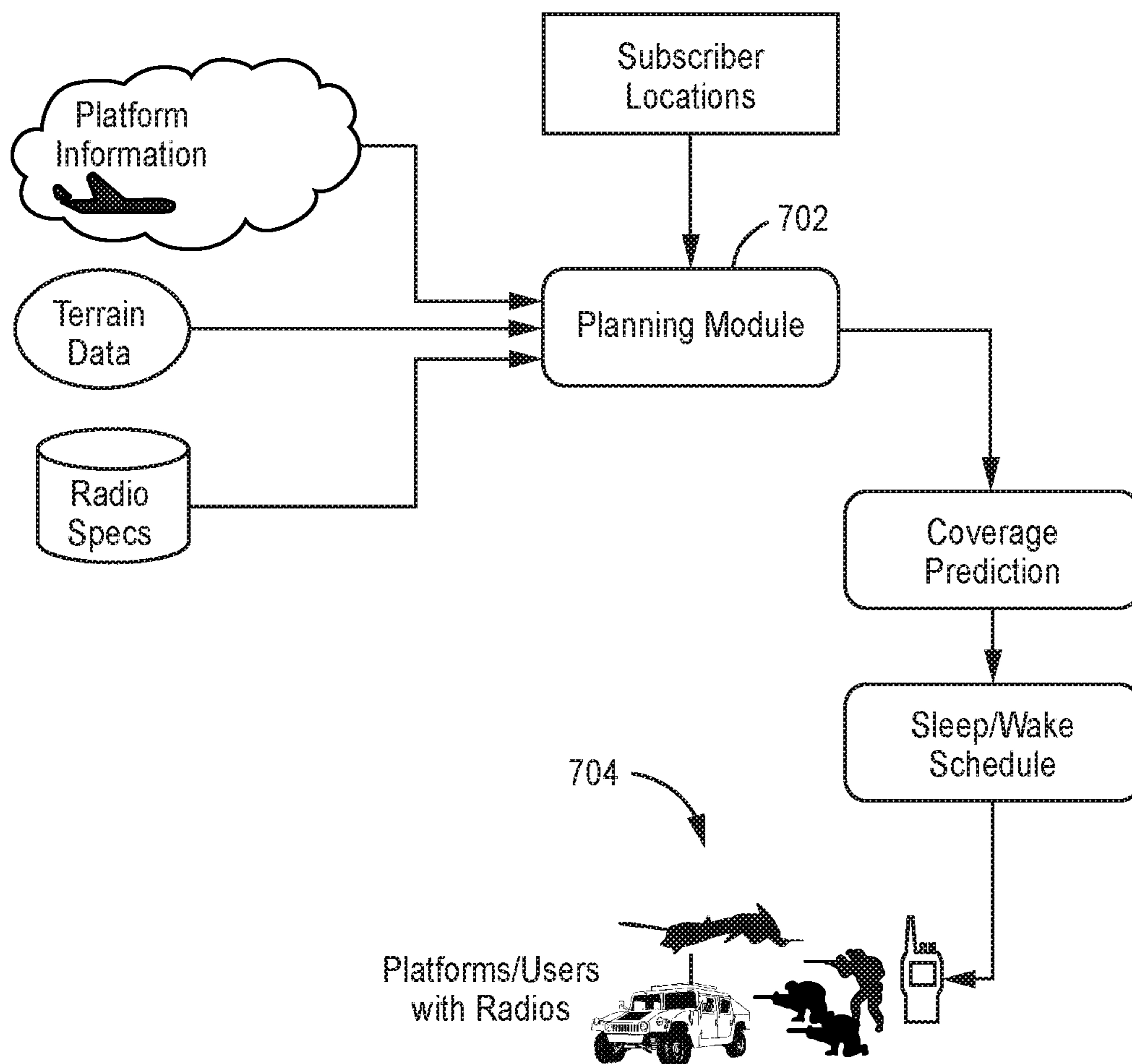


FIG. 7

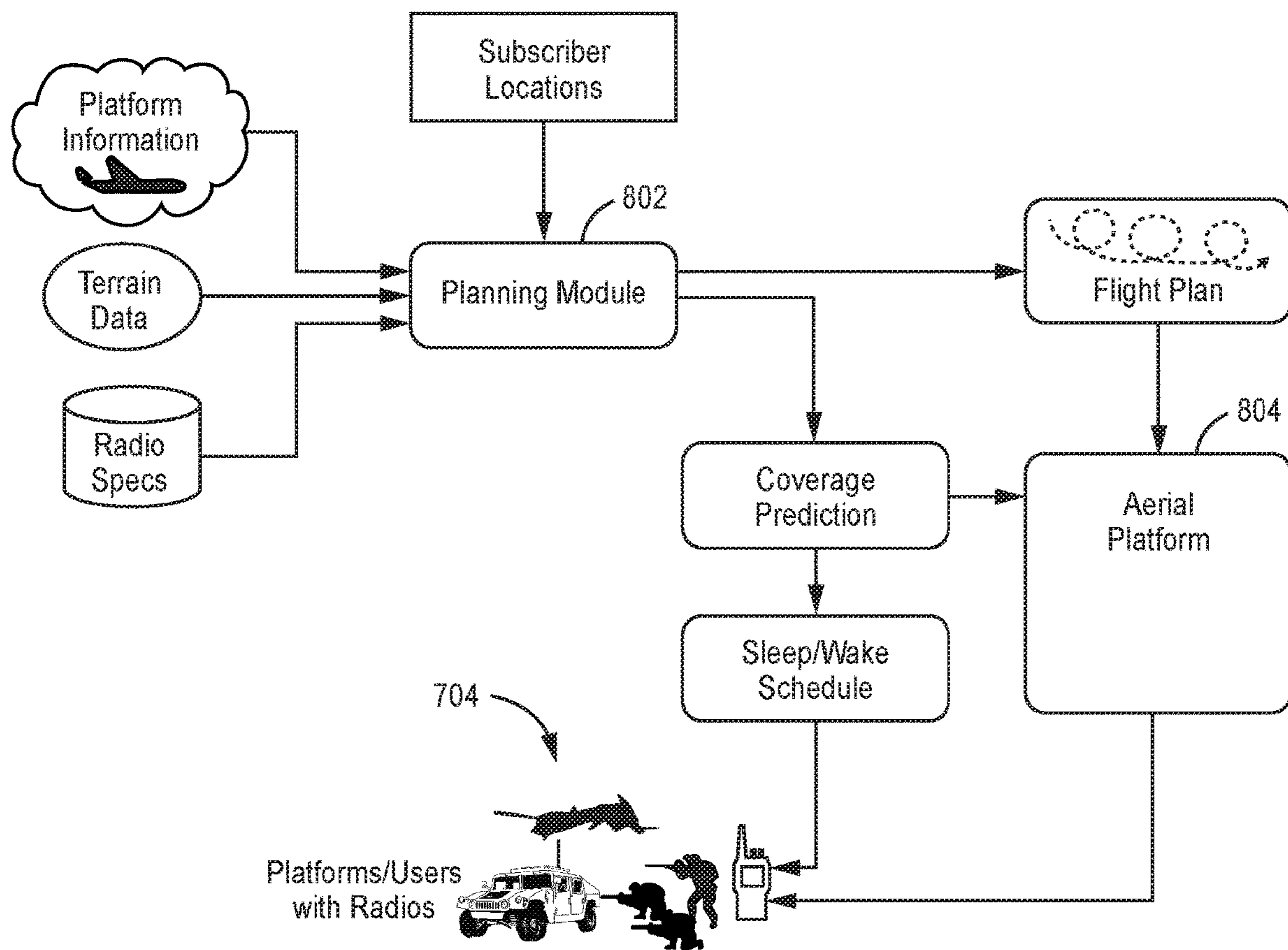


FIG. 8

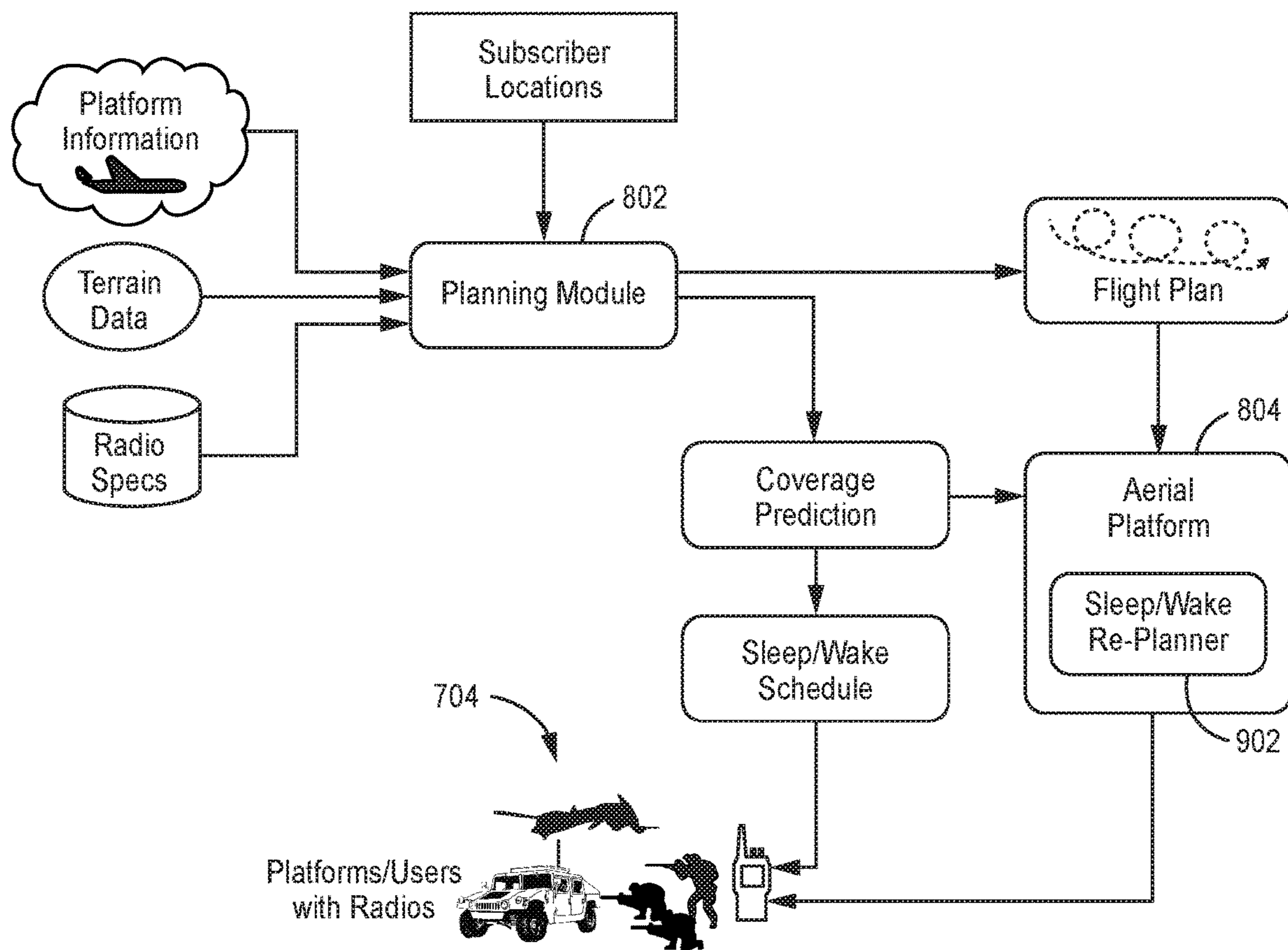


FIG. 9

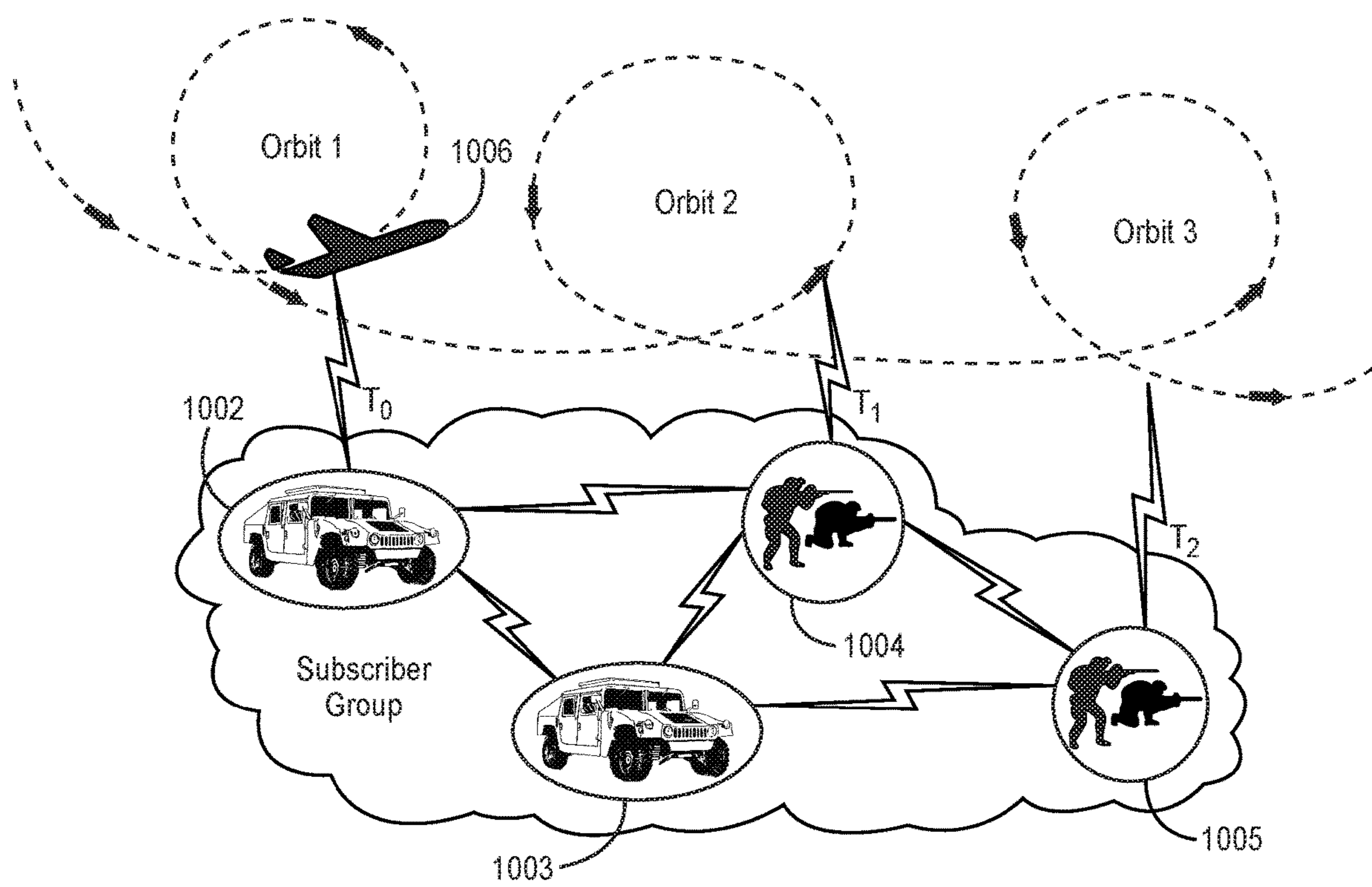


FIG. 10

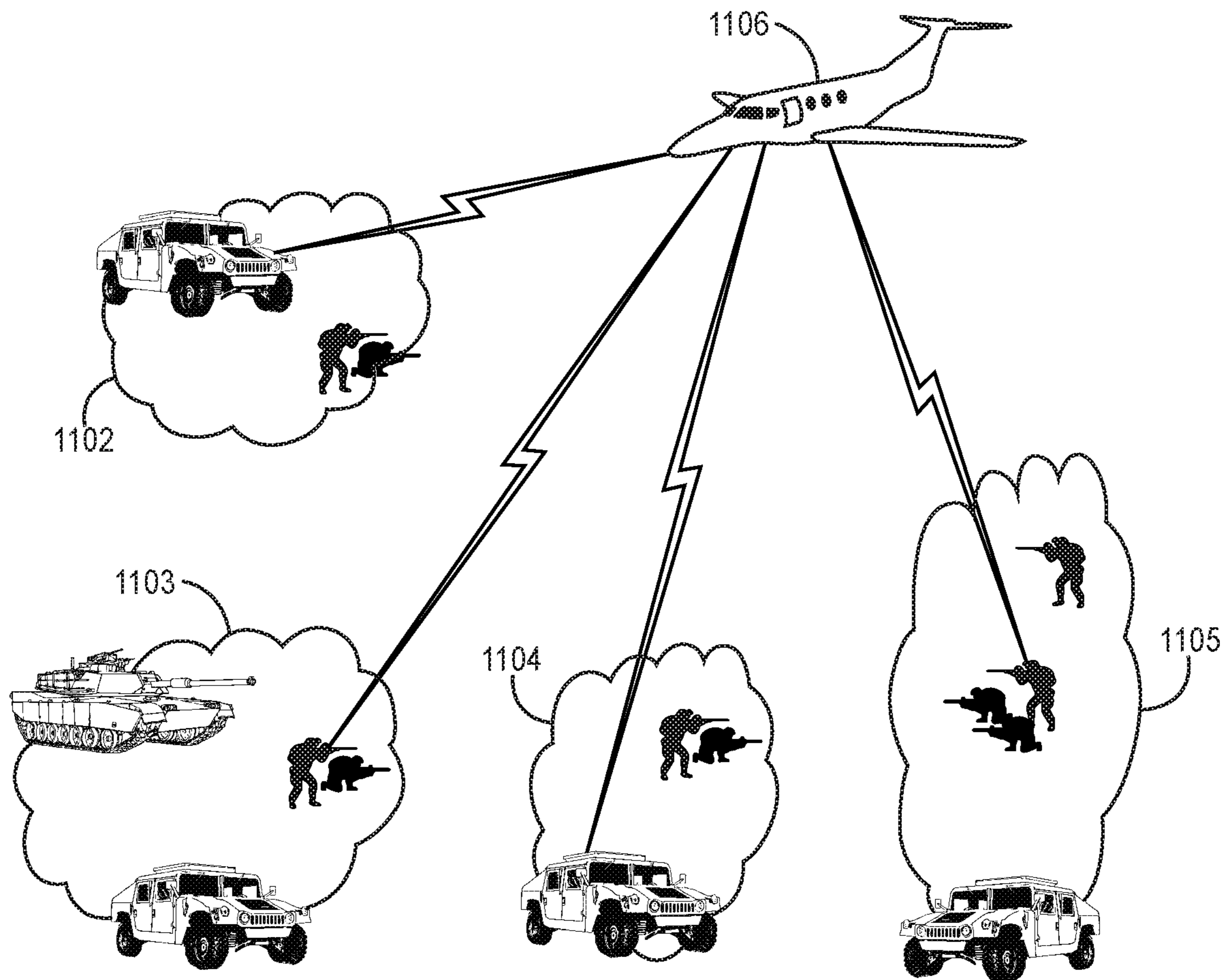


FIG. 11

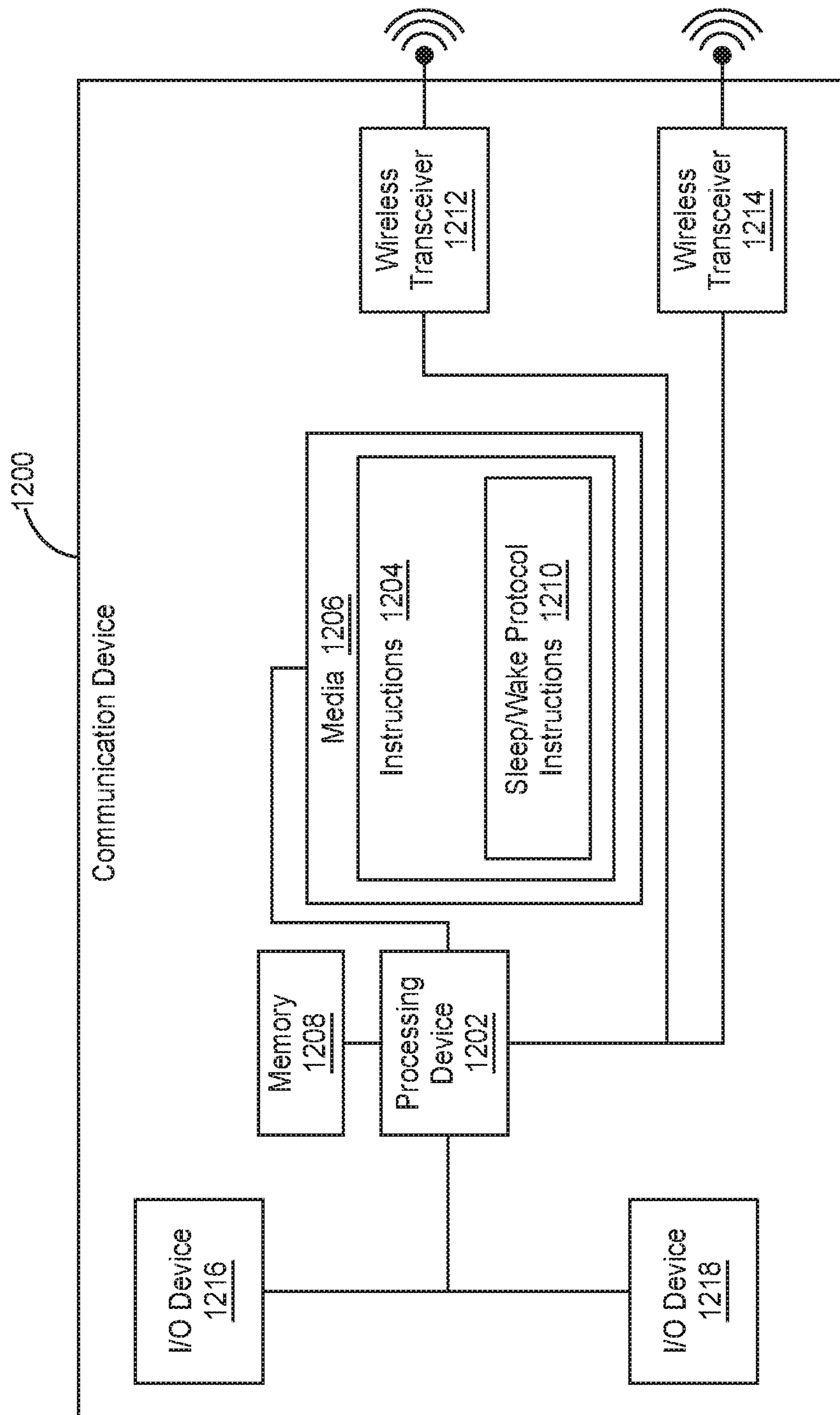


FIG. 12

SLEEP/WAKE BASED ON COVERAGE

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Pat. No. 11,032, 767 filed on May 29, 2020, entitled "SLEEP/WAKE BASED ON COVERAGE", which is a continuation of U.S. Pat. No. 10,674,446 filed on May 8, 2018, entitled "SLEEP/WAKE BASED ON COVERAGE", both of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

Conservation of battery power is an important concern for any battery powered communication device. A traditional approach to battery conservation for a communication device is to use sleep/wake cycles that allow battery powered radios to decrease energy while "sleeping". The timing of the sleep and wake intervals for a group of communication devices can be synchronized so that all the communication devices in the group wake at a prescribed time to communicate with each other and then sleep until the next synchronized wake interval.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Embodiments for a module for scheduling sleep/wake intervals for a first one or more communication devices are disclosed. The module includes a computer readable medium having instructions thereon. The instructions, when executed by one or more processing devices, cause the one or more processing devices to obtain a coverage prediction for the one or more mobile communication devices. The coverage prediction indicates a start and an end of at least one future interval during which one or more orbiting communication platforms are predicted to be within range of the one or more mobile communication devices. The instructions also cause the one or more processing devices to generate at least one future sleep interval having a start and an end and at least one future wake interval having a start and an end to control the one or more mobile communication devices based on the coverage prediction.

Embodiments for a method for scheduling sleep/wake intervals for one or more mobile communication devices are also provided. The method includes obtaining a coverage prediction for the one or more mobile communication devices. The coverage prediction indicates a start and an end of at least one future interval during which one or more orbiting communication platform are predicted to be within range of the one or more mobile communication devices. The method also includes generating at least one future sleep interval having a start and an end and at least one future wake interval having a start and an end to control the one or more mobile communication devices based on the coverage prediction.

Embodiments for another method for scheduling sleep/wake intervals for one or more mobile communication devices are also provided. The method includes generating a coverage prediction for the one or more mobile communication devices. The coverage prediction indicates a start and an end of at least one future interval during which one or more orbiting communication platforms are predicted to be within range of the one or more mobile communication devices. At least one future sleep interval having a start and an end and at least one future wake interval having a start and an end to control the one or more mobile communication devices based on the coverage prediction is also generated.

Indications of the sleep intervals and wake intervals are sent to the one or more mobile communication devices. Sleep/wake of the one or more mobile communication devices is controlled in accordance with the sleep intervals and wake intervals.

DRAWINGS

Understanding that the drawings depict only exemplary embodiments and are not therefore to be considered limiting in scope, the exemplary embodiments will be described with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example first communication device that operates sleep and wake intervals based on when a second communication device is within communication range thereof;

FIG. 2 is a graph illustrating example coverage intervals and sleep and wake intervals for the first communication device of FIG. 1 with respect to coverage intervals of the second communication device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a graph illustrating other example sleep and wake intervals for the first communication device of FIG. 1 with respect to coverage intervals of the second communication device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of the first communication device, the second communication device, and an example third communication device;

FIG. 5 is a graph illustrating example sleep/wake intervals for the first communication device with respect to the coverage intervals of the second communication device and third communication device of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is a graph illustrating other example sleep/wake intervals for the first communication device with respect to the coverage intervals of the second communication device and third communication device of FIG. 4;

FIG. 7 is a functional diagram of an example planning module that generates coverage predictions and sleep/wake schedules for a plurality of communication devices;

FIG. 8 is a functional diagram of another example planning module that generate flight plans for one or more aerial platforms as well as coverage predictions and sleep/wake schedules for a plurality of communication devices;

FIG. 9 is a function diagram of the example planning module of FIG. 8 along with an example planning module in aerial platform for updating the sleep/wake intervals of the communication devices;

FIG. 10 is a block diagram of an example of a flight plan for an aerial platform that takes into account battery conservation of the communication devices;

FIG. 11 is a block diagram of another example of a flight path for an aerial platform that takes into account battery conservation of the communication devices; and

FIG. 12 is a block diagram of an example communication device having sleep/wake protocol instructions loaded thereon.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example first communication device **102** that operates sleep and wake intervals based on when a second communication device **104** is within communication range thereof. In some situations, two devices that communicate with one another are only within communication range of each other during certain times. FIG. 1 illustrates such a situation. The first device **102** of FIG. 1 is generally stationary and the second device **104**

travels on a path **106**. The path **106** of the second device **104** brings the second device **104** into and out of communication range **108** of the first device **102**. In this example, the second device **104** travels in a loop, moving along the same path **106** in each loop, so that the second device **104** periodically comes into communication range **108** of the first device **102**. Because of this looping travel of the second device **104** and the stationary nature of the first device **102**, future locations of both the first device **102** and the second device **104** can be predicted. Based on these known future locations, a coverage prediction can be generated that indicates during which intervals the first and second communication devices **102**, **104** are expected to be in communication range **108** of one another.

An interval during which a first device is predicted to be in communication range of a second device based on their predicted future locations, is referred to herein as a “coverage interval” or more specifically a “second device coverage interval” for the first device. An interval during which a first device is predicted to be out of communication range of a second device based on their predicted future locations, is referred to herein as a “non-coverage interval” or more specifically a “second device non-coverage interval” for the first device. As should be understood, the first device and second device can communicate with more than one other device, such that the first device can have a second device coverage interval, a third device coverage interval, and a fourth device coverage interval. Each such coverage interval is the period during which the first device is in communication range of the respective other device (second, third, fourth), and each such coverage interval can be the same or different than the other coverage intervals.

The coverage prediction for a first device can describe the coverage intervals for one other device, or for more than one other device. That is, the coverage prediction for a first device can indicate the intervals in which one or more other devices are predicted to be in communication range of the first device. Each of the one or more other devices can have distinct (i.e., their own) coverage intervals indicated in the coverage prediction, or the coverage prediction can indicate intervals in which all of a group of other devices are predicted to be within communication range. In an example, the coverage prediction for a first device can describe the coverage intervals for all other communication devices with which it is desired that the first device communicate. In another example, the coverage prediction for a first device can describe the coverage intervals for all other devices that have a coverage interval with respect to the first device.

As used herein a coverage prediction, coverage interval, non-coverage interval, communication range, or other communication related term for a device is with respect to a transceiver of that device. For example, a communication range for a first device is a communication range of a transceiver of the first device. Likewise, a coverage prediction for a first device is an indication of when other devices (transceivers thereof) are predicted to be within communication range of a transceiver of the first device. Accordingly, it should be understood that references to communication related items of a first device, refer to a transceiver of that first device.

Based on the coverage prediction for the first device **102**, sleep/wake intervals for a transceiver of the first device **102** can be determined. In particular, the sleep/wake intervals can be coordinated with the coverage prediction such that the transceiver is awake when devices are in communication range and asleep when devices are out of communication range. By coordinating the sleep/wake intervals in such a

manner, battery power of the first device **102** can be efficiently utilized by limiting the time during which the transceiver is awake, but unable to communicate because other devices are out of range.

FIG. 2 is graph illustrating example second device coverage intervals and sleep and wake intervals for the first device **102**. In this example, the loop implemented by the second device **104** results in periodic coverage intervals **202**, **204** of the first device **102**. The periodic coverage intervals **202**, **204** occur every half hour for fifteen minutes. There is a fifteen-minute non-coverage interval between each coverage interval **202**, **204**. In this example, the transceiver of the first device **102** is to communicate with no devices other than the second device **104** during the 60-minute time period shown. Accordingly, the sleep/wake intervals for the transceiver during the 60-minute time period can be set to coordinate with the second device coverage interval(s) for the first device **102**.

In this example, the sleep and wake intervals of the first device **102** are set to coincide with the coverage interval(s) **202**, **204**, such that the first device **102** is awake during the entire coverage interval(s) **202**, **204** and sleeping throughout the entire non-coverage interval(s). From time=0 to time=15 minutes, the first device **102** is in a non-coverage interval and the first transceiver is in a sleep interval **210**. At time=15 minutes, a coverage interval **202** for the first device **102** begins, and the first transceiver transitions from sleep interval **210** to an awake interval **206**. The awake interval **206** coincides with the coverage interval **202**, such that the awake interval **206** begins and ends at the same times that the coverage interval **202** begins and ends. Thus, the first transceiver is awake from time=15 minutes to time=30 minutes, and the coverage interval **202** occurs from time=15 minutes to time=30 minutes. At time=30 minutes, the coverage interval **202** ends, starting a non-coverage interval. At time=30 minutes, the first transceiver transitions from awake to sleep, starting a fifteen-minute sleep interval **212**. The sleep interval **212** occurs for 15 minutes during the 15-minute non-coverage interval. At time=45 minutes, the next coverage interval **204** begins, and the first transceiver transitions from the sleep interval **212** to an awake interval **208**. The awake interval **208** coincides with the coverage interval **204** and ends when the coverage interval **208** ends at time=60 minutes.

FIG. 3 is a graph illustrating other example sleep and wake intervals for the first device **102** with respect to the second device coverage intervals **202**, **204**. In this example, the coverage intervals **202**, **204** for the first device **102** are the same as the example of FIG. 2, being periodic based on a looping path of the second device **104**. In the example of FIG. 3, the awake intervals **306**, **308** for the transceiver of the first device **102** occur entirely within a coverage interval **302**, **304**, but the awake intervals **306**, **308** do not coincide with the start and end of the coverage intervals **202**, **204**. Instead, the awake intervals **306**, **308** are set to occur for a lesser length of time than the coverage intervals **202**, **204**. The transceiver may be set to wake for a lesser length of time than the coverage intervals **202**, **204** occur, if less than the full duration of a coverage interval **202**, **204** is needed to communicate the desired information, and/or to use less power than would be required if the transceiver were awake for the full coverage interval **202**, **204**.

At time=0, the first device **102** is in a non-coverage interval and the transceiver of the first device **102** is in a sleep interval **310**. At time=15 minutes, the coverage interval **202** starts and continues until time=30 minutes. Even though the coverage interval **202** starts at time=15 minutes,

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the transceiver remains in the sleep interval **310** past time=15 minutes up to time=20 minutes. At time=20 minutes, the transceiver transitions to an awake interval **306**. The awake interval **306** lasts for five minutes, so at time=25 minutes the transceiver transitions from awake to sleep. Thus, the transceiver transitions to awake after the start of the coverage interval **202** and transitions back to sleep prior to the end of coverage interval **202**. The sleep interval **312** occurs from time=25 minutes to time=50 minutes. At time=30 minutes the coverage interval **202** ends, beginning a non-coverage interval. That non-coverage interval continues until time=45 minutes. At time=45 minutes, another coverage interval **204** begins. That coverage interval **204** occurs from time=45 minutes to time=60 minutes. During that 15-minute coverage interval **204**, the transceiver awakes for a 5-minute wake interval **308**. Specifically, the sleep interval **312** ends at time=50 minutes and an awake interval **308** begins. The awake interval **308** ends at time=55 minutes and another sleep interval **314** begins.

In both the examples of FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, the awake intervals **206**, **208**, **306**, **308** are set to occur during a coverage interval **202**, **204**, **302**, **304**. In particular, the entire duration of each awake interval **206**, **208**, **306**, **308** occurs during a coverage interval for the first device **102**. This makes efficient use of energy by ensuring that the transceiver is only awake while the second device **104** is in communication range. Additionally, in both the examples of FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, the transceiver is set to sleep throughout all of the non-coverage intervals, ensuring that the transceiver does not waste energy trying to communicate with the second device **104** while the second device **104** is out of range. In other examples, other durations of sleep/wake intervals can be used, and/or different durations of wake intervals can be used during different coverage intervals. For example, a first wake interval of 15 minutes can be used during the first coverage interval **202** and a second wake interval of 5 minutes can be used during the second coverage interval **204**.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of the first device **102**, the second device **104**, and an example third device **402**. In this example, the first device **102** is again generally stationary, while the second device **104** and the third device **402** travel in respective loops around paths **206**, **406**. The paths **206**, **406** take the second device **104** and the third device **106** into and out of communication range **208** with the first device **102**.

FIG. 5 is a graph illustrating example coverage intervals and sleep/wake intervals for the first device **102**. In this example, the sleep/wake intervals for the transceiver of the first device **102** are set based on coverage intervals of more than one device. In the example of FIGS. 4 and 5, it is desired that the first device **102** be able to communicate with both the second device **104** and the third device **402**. Accordingly, the second device coverage intervals **202**, **204** as well as the third device coverage intervals **502**, **504** for the first device **102** are determined. As shown, the second device coverage interval **202** begins at time=15 minutes and occurs for 15 minutes until time=30 minutes. A third device coverage interval **502** begins at time=10 minutes and occurs for 10 minutes until time=20 minutes. In this example, the second device coverage interval **202** and the third device coverage interval **502** overlap during the period of time=15 minutes until time=20 minutes. If the first device **102** only needs to communicate with the second device **104** and the third device **402** for a total of 5 minutes every 30 minutes, then the transceiver of the first device **102** can be scheduled for a wake interval **510** during the period between time=15

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minutes to time=20 minutes. During this wake interval **510**, the first device **102** can communicate with both the second device **104** and the third device **402**. During the time period between time=0 minutes and time=15 minutes, the transceiver of the first device **102** can be in a sleep interval **512**. During the time period between time=20 minutes and time=45 minutes, the first device **102** can be in another sleep interval **514**.

Similarly, the transceiver of the first device **102** can have a sleep interval from time=20 minutes to time=45 minutes. At time=45 minutes, the transceiver can have an awake interval **508** during a time in which both the second device **104** and the third device **402** are again within communication range—during period in which a second device coverage interval **204** and a third device coverage interval **504** overlap. The awake interval **508** can end at time=50 minutes to begin another sleep interval **514** from time=50 minutes to time=60 minutes.

FIG. 6 is a graph illustrating other example sleep/wake intervals for the first device **102** to communicate with the second device **104** and the third device **402**. In the example of FIG. 6, the coverage intervals **202**, **204**, **502**, **504** are the same, but it is desired that the first device **102** communicate with the second device **104** and the third device **402** for at least 5 minutes each. To accomplish this, a first wake interval **606** for the first device **102** is set to start at time=10 minutes and end at time=20 minutes. Thus, the first device **102** has at least 5 minutes of communication time available with each of the second device **104** and the third device **402**. The first device **102** has a first sleep interval **610** from time=0 to time=10 minutes and a second sleep interval **612** from time=20 minutes to time=40 minutes. A second wake interval **608** starts at time=40 minutes and continues until time=50 minutes. At time=50 minutes, a third sleep interval **614** begins.

The sleep/wake intervals for a first device can be scheduled based on the coverage intervals of any number of other devices. Moreover, the sleep/wake intervals for a first device can be scheduled based on the coverage intervals of all (known) possible other communication devices (i.e., the other communication devices that come into range at least once during a scheduling period) or based on the coverage intervals of a subset of the possible other communication devices. Scheduling based on all possible other communication devices may be desirable to ensure the first device is able to communicate with any of the other communication devices. Scheduling based on a subset of the possible other communication devices, may enable the first device to be awake less and enable the first device to focus its energy resources on the devices with which communication is most desirable.

The sleep/wake intervals can apply solely to the transceiver of the first device **102**, such that other components of the first device **102** can remain operational during a sleep interval of the transceiver, and other components of the first device can sleep during an awake period of the transceiver. In an alternative example, the entire first device **102** can go into a sleep state during a sleep interval.

The transceiver of the first device **102** can remain completely off throughout an entire sleep interval. That is, no beaconing or other transmission or receptions by the transceiver occur during sleep. Since the desired communication of the first device **102** is factored a priori into the sleep/wake intervals, one can be comfortable that the first device **102** will not be missing any communications during a sleep interval. Thus, the transceiver can remain completely off during the sleep intervals.

In an example, the transceiver can refrain from transmitting a high-power beacon to identify other communication devices in range at the start of, or anytime during, some or all of its wake intervals. Prior art devices are oftentimes programmed to transmit one or more beacon signals at high-power upon waking from sleep in order to solicit responses from, and thereby discover, other devices within communication range. In the examples described herein, however, at least some of the future locations of devices with which a first device desires to communicate are known a priori. In such an example, instead of sending out a high-power beacon to discover nearby devices, the first device can passively wait to receive a beacon from the device(s) to which it will be connecting. Eliminating the high-power beacon can further save battery power of the first device. In other example, a mid or lower power beacon for discovering other devices can be transmitted.

As mentioned above, the sleep/wake intervals for a first device can be scheduled based on the coverage prediction for the first device. The coverage prediction for the first device can include a set of coverage intervals for the first device, the set of coverage intervals including the coverage intervals for each other device with which it is desired that the first device communicate. Based on the coverage prediction and other factors, a sleep/wake schedule for the first device can be determined. The other factors can include the desired rate of power drain, a desired duration and/or frequency of communication with one or more of the other devices, and others. In any case, taking the coverage prediction and the other factors into consideration a sleep/wake schedule for the first device can be developed. The sleep/wake schedule can include the times in which to have a transceiver of the first device **102** sleep and be awake (i.e., the time and duration of the sleep intervals and the time and duration of the awake intervals). The times for the sleep and wake intervals can be indicated in any suitable form, including as a device relative time that is a time with respect to a device time of the first device, or as a globally referenced time, which is a time with respect to a global time (e.g., with respect to GMT).

The device(s) with which a first device **102** communicates (e.g., the second device **104**, third device **402**) can also have sleep/wake schedules based on the coverage predictions. For example, if the second device **104** only communicates with the first device **102**, the sleep/wake intervals of the second device **104** can be scheduled such that the second device **104** is awake while the first device **102** is in communication range and asleep while the first device **102** is out of communication range. In other examples, some or all of the device(s) with which a first device **102** communicates do not have sleep/wake schedules based on coverage predictions. The devices can, for example, be awake and able to communicate at all times.

The coverage prediction and the sleep/wake schedule for the first device **102** can be generated by any appropriate device. In an example, the first device **102** can determine its own coverage prediction and sleep/wake schedule. In another example, another device can generate the coverage prediction and the sleep/wake schedule for the first device **102**. Such an other device can be a remote computing device that executes a planning module which generates coverage predictions and sleep/wake schedules for multiple communication devices.

FIG. 7 is a functional diagram of an example planning module **702** that generates coverage predictions and sleep/wake schedules for a plurality of communication devices **704**. The planning module **702** is software that executes on

one or more computing devices to generate the coverage predictions and sleep/wake schedules. In an example, the planning module **702** operates on one or more computing devices that are distinct from the plurality of communication devices **702** and transmits the sleep/wake schedules to the communication devices **704**. The communication devices **704** can then control their respective transceiver based on the sleep/wake schedule provided. The planning module **702** can generate a distinct sleep/wake schedule for each communication device **704**, wherein the sleep/wake schedule for each communication device **704** is customized to that communication device **704**.

The communication devices **704** can be any device capable of communicating, such as a mobile phone, mobile communications radio (e.g., tactical radio), a radio platform for installation in heavy equipment (e.g., military equipment, construction equipment), a wireless wearable device, or a wireless sensor. The other device(s) with which a communication device **704** desires to communicate can be any device capable of communicating with the communication device **704**. Example other devices include another communicating device **704** having its own sleep/wake schedule, an aerial communication platform, a base station, a communication (e.g., cell) tower, an access point. The communication devices **704** and the other devices can be stationary or mobile devices.

To generate customized/individualized sleep/wake schedules, the planning module **702** can generate individualized respective coverage predictions for each communication device **704**. The coverage predictions are generated based on information regarding the predicted future locations of the communication devices **704**, predicted future locations (e.g. future paths) of other devices to which the communication devices **704** are to communicate, as well as characteristics of the communication devices **704** and other devices. The characteristics of the communication devices and the other devices can include a communication range, battery power available, rate of battery drain during awake and sleep intervals, length of time in which battery power is to be relied on, as well as other characteristics of the communication devices **704** and the other devices. The coverage predictions can also be based on a respective list of devices with which each of the communication devices **704** is to have access (e.g., to communicate with) as well as a frequency and/or duration of such communication. All of this information can be obtained by the planning module **702** in any suitable manner. For example, a user can input some or all of the information into the planning module **702**, some or all of the information can be generated by the planning module **702** or another module, and/or some or all of the information can be received from the communication devices **704** and/or other devices.

In any case, once the planning module **702** has obtained the information, the planning module can generate coverage predictions and sleep/wake intervals based thereon. The sleep/wake intervals generated by the planning module can be transmitted over a network to the communication devices **704**. The communication devices **704** can receive the sleep/wake intervals and control their transceivers in accordance therewith.

In an example, the planning module **702** can be implemented on single computing device. In another example, the planning module **702** can be distributed across multiple computing devices, such that portions of the planning module are implemented by the different devices. In an example, one or more of the coverage predictions or sleep/wake intervals can be generated by the communication devices

704 themselves. That is, one or more of the communication devices 704 and/or other devices can include a planning module that generates a coverage prediction and/or sleep/wake intervals for that device 704. In such an example, the communication devices 704 can obtain the information discussed above via user input or from other devices and generate the coverage predictions or sleep/wake intervals accordingly.

FIG. 8 is a functional diagram of another example planning module 802 that generates coverage predictions and sleep/wake schedules for a plurality of communication devices 704. The example planning module 802 generates flight plans for one or more aerial communication platforms 804 that relay communications between the communication devices 704 and one another and/or other networks. The aerial platforms 804 can be aerial communication relays/network devices implemented in an aerial drone, for example.

The planning module 802 can obtain information regarding the predicted future locations and characteristics of the communication devices 704, the aerial platforms 804, terrain information, and other information. The characteristics of the communication devices 704 and aerial platforms 804 can include a communication range, battery power available, rate of battery drain during awake and sleep intervals, length of time in which battery power is to be relied on, and/or other characteristics. In an example, generating the flight paths can include generating waypoints for the path of the aerial platform 804 and then generating maneuvers for the aerial platform 804 to travel to the waypoints. The result is a path that traverses waypoints using the maneuvers. Once the path and/or waypoints for the aerial platform 804 are generated, the planning module 802 can generate coverage predictions for communication devices 704. The planning module 802 can then generate sleep/wake intervals based on the coverage predictions and send the sleep/wake intervals to the communication devices 704, or the planning module 802 can send the coverage predictions to the communication devices 704 and the communication devices 704 can generate their own sleep/wake intervals.

In an example, the planning module 802 can take into account battery conservation of one or more of the communication devices 704 when generating the flight paths for the aerial platform(s) 804. In an example, the planning module 802 can take into account battery conservation by selecting a path that is closer a communication device 704, not merely within range of the communication device 704. A path that puts an aerial platform 804 closer to a communicating device 704 can reduce the power drained by the communication device 704, because less power is required to transmit shorter distances.

In an example, the sleep/wake schedules for one or more of the communication devices 704 can be updated. The planning module 702, 802 that generated the coverage prediction and/or sleep/wake intervals for the communication device 704 or another device can generate a new coverage prediction and/or new sleep/wake intervals for the communication device 704 based on updated information.

FIG. 9 is a functional diagram in which the aerial platform 804 generates and sends updated sleep/wake intervals to one or more communication devices 704. In an example, a pre-mission planning module 804 is implemented on a remote computing device and generates coverage predictions and sleep/wake intervals for the communication devices 704 prior to beginning a mission that is to be performed by the communication devices 704. Once the mission is underway, however, the communication devices

704 may not have communication with the remote computing device. Thus, the aerial platform can generate updated coverage predictions and/or sleep/wake schedules with its own planning module 902 based on updated information it obtains and push the updated sleep/wake schedules to the communication devices 704. In other example, the updated coverage predictions and/or sleep/wake schedules can be generated by the same device that executed the pre-mission planning module 804 or by one or more of the communication devices 704 themselves.

The updated information can include a new predicted path/future location for a communication device 704 or other device (e.g., aerial platform 804), an updated list of devices that a communication device 704 is to communicate with, updated frequency and/or duration of a communication interval, and/or updated characteristics of a device. The updated information can be received by the device generating the coverage prediction and new sleep/wake intervals in any of the manners listed above (e.g., manually, generated within, or received from another device). An updated coverage prediction and/or sleep/wake schedule can be received by one or more communication devices 704, and those devices can update their control to control their transceivers based thereon.

In an example, to facilitate updates or for initial sleep/wake interval or coverage prediction generation, a communication device 704 can provide one-time or repeated (e.g., periodic) information regarding itself to the planning module 702, 802, 902. The information can include a current battery life remaining, a current location, a predicted future path, a predicted future location, or other information.

In an example, sleep/wake intervals can be repeatedly (e.g., periodically) provided to one or more communication devices 704, such that the sleep/wake intervals are continually updated overtime. Each sleep/wake interval update can include a minimum of future information for the communication device 704, such that the sleep/wake interval update covers at least a threshold number of wake intervals (e.g., two) or at least a threshold duration of time (e.g., 1 hour). In an example, if a communication device 704 reaches an end of sleep/wake interval schedule (i.e., neither a sleep interval nor a wake interval is schedule for the present time), the communication device 704 can operate in a default mode. The default mode can include any appropriate sleep/wake intervals including constantly awake, a repeating pattern of awake for a length of time and asleep for a length of time, or other intervals. The default mode can also include beaconing to identify communication nodes in range.

In an example, a communication device 704 can receive an input from a user to manually override a sleep or wake interval of a communication device. In response to the input the communication device 704 can enter a different mode in which the sleep/wake intervals are ignored. For example, a communication device 704 can be configured with a manual override button, which wakes the transceiver/communication device 704 if the transceiver/communication device 704 is in a sleep state. In some examples, a transceiver can send out beacons periodically during a manual override of the sleep/wake intervals to discover other devices in range and/or receive updated network information and/or sleep/wake intervals. Such a manual override enables a user to use awake the transceiver if the situation changes from that expected, such that the user would like to use the transceiver during a time previous scheduled for sleep. In an example, the input is a software implemented button (e.g., menu selection, etc.) that can be selected by a user of the communication device. The communication device 704 can also

implement a button to exit manual override and return to control according to the sleep/wake intervals.

In an example, some or all of the communication devices **704** can communicate with one another. All or a portion of these communications can be factored into the sleep/wake intervals of the communication devices **704**, such that communications devices **704** are awake during coverage intervals of other communication devices **704**. In some examples, however, some or all of the communications **704** between peer communication devices can be outside of the scope of the planning module **702, 802, 902**, such that the peer communications are not factored into the sleep/wake intervals. In an example, these communications may be outside of the scope of the planning module **702, 802, 902** because the peer devices are frequently in range, so communication during any scheduled wake interval is likely, because the future location of the peer devices is unknown, or for other reasons. In another example, the peer devices **704** are outside the scope of the planning module **702, 802, 902** because the peer devices communicate using a different transceiver than communications with one or more non-peer devices. For example, the peer devices **704** can comprise user communication radios and the non-peer device can be aerial communication platform **804**. In such an example, the peer devices **704** can communicate with each other using a first transceiver and can communicate with the aerial communication platform **804** using a second transceiver. In such an example, the sleep/wake intervals generated by the planning module **702, 802, 902** would be for control of the second transceiver in each communication device **704**. The first transceiver need not follow the sleep/wake interval.

As mentioned above, the aerial platform **804** can act as a relay for messages between the plurality of devices **704** and other networks. In such an example and where the plurality of devices **704** can communicate with one another using a first transceiver while communications with the aerial platform **804** are with a second transceiver, the plurality of devices **704** can conserve battery power by sharing one or more aerial links to the aerial platform **804**. For example, the plurality of devices **704** can route messages to and from the aerial platform **804** through one or more of the devices **704**, such that that the one or more devices **704** through which the messages are routed maintain a link (uplink and downlink) with the aerial platform **804** while the other devices **704** can shut down their link with the aerial platform. Thus, instead of all the devices **704** maintaining a separate link with the aerial platform **804**, only a subset of the devices **704** do. Additionally, the subset of devices **704** that are maintaining the aerial link, can change (e.g., rotate) overtime to spread out the power load across all the devices **704** (e.g., evenly or based on characteristics of the devices). Messages within the group of devices **704** can, for example, be routed using internet protocol (IP).

In an example, the sleep/wake intervals scheduled for the devices **704** can factor in a shared link with the aerial platform **804**. The planning module **702, 802, 902** can obtain information, in addition to the information discussed above, regarding which devices **704** are included in a group and what characteristics of links (e.g., bandwidth, redundancy, timing, frequency, etc.) with the aerial platform **804** are desired.

Based on this information, the planning module **702, 802, 902** can schedule which devices **704** implement a shared link with the aerial platform **804** at which time and can schedule the sleep/wake intervals for the second transceivers of those devices **704** in accordance with such a shared link. For example, if a first device **704** is implementing a shared

link during a first interval and a second **704** and third device **704** are routing their messages through the first device **704**, the sleep/wake schedule can schedule the second transceiver of the first device **704** to have an awake interval during the first interval and the second transceivers of the second **704** and third devices **704** to have a sleep interval during the first interval. While the second transceivers of the second **704** and third devices **704** are asleep, the first transceivers of the first, second, and third devices **704** can transfer message therebetween to enable the messages to utilize the shared link implemented by the first device **704**. If the shared link is changed to the second device **704** for a second interval, the second device **704** can have a wake interval during the second interval while the first **704** and third device **704** have a sleep interval. The planning module **702, 802, 902** can implement multiple sleep/wake schedules for one or more groups of devices sharing respective links in this way.

In an example, the planning module **702, 802, 902** can also take into account a relative location of each device **704** in a group relative to the device **704** to which the shared link connects, in order to prioritize selecting devices **704** to implement the shared link that are closer to the device to which the shared link connects while those devices implement the shared link. For example, if both a first device **704** and a second device **704** will be within range of a connecting device during a first time period, but the first device **704** will be closer to the connecting device than the second device **704** (or can otherwise transmit with less power due to other factors such as terrain) during that time period, the planning module **702, 802, 902** can prioritize the first device **704** for implementing the shared link during the first time period. During other time periods other devices may be closer and those devices can be prioritized.

FIG. **10** is a block diagram of another example method of generating a flight plan while taking into account battery conservation of the communication devices. In this example, the flight plan of the aerial platform takes into account battery conservation of the communication devices by choosing waypoint(s)/path that provides the desired coverage (e.g., duration, frequency) for communication device(s) that are implementing a shared aerial link with the aerial platform. Communication devices having access to a shared aerial link need not be covered. This can result in efficiencies in the path of the aerial platform, because the path need not cover all devices in a group during a given access interval. If the device implementing the shared aerial link changes over time, the path of the aerial platform can take into account those changes such that during different passes near a group of devices, the aerial platform can take different paths to cover the device that is implementing the aerial link at that time.

For example, a plurality of communication devices **1002, 1003, 1004, 1005** can implement a single shared link to communicate with an aerial platform **1006**. The devices **1002, 1003, 1004, 1005** can be configured to change which device **1002, 1003, 1004, 1005** implements the shared link over time. In an example, the aerial platform **1006** can follow a path that generally loops, repeatedly (e.g., periodically) taking the aerial platform **1006** nearby the group of devices **1002, 1003, 1004, 1005**. The planning module **702, 802, 902** can obtain information regarding the predicted future locations of the devices **1002, 1003, 1004, 1005** and generate a flight plan for the aerial platform **1006** and sleep/wake intervals for the devices **1002, 1003, 1004, 1005** that are coordinated with one another. The coordinated flight plan and sleep/wake intervals can generate a flight plan that takes the aerial platform **804** within communication range of

a first device **1002** during a first interval when the first device **1002** is implementing the shared aerial link for the group, within communication range of a second device **1004** during a second interval when the third device **1004** is implementing the shared aerial link for the group, and within communication range of a fourth device **1005** during a second interval when the fourth device **1005** is implementing the shared aerial link for the group. The coordinated flight plan and sleep/wake intervals can also have the second transceivers of each device **1002**, **1003**, **1004**, **1005** that is not implementing the shared link sleep and put the second transceivers of all the devices **1002**, **1003**, **1004**, **1005** in a sleep interval while the aerial platform **1006** is out of range. The coordinated flight plan and sleep/wake intervals can also change which device **1002**, **1003**, **1004**, **1005** implements the shared link at the appropriate time, such that the device **1002**, **1003**, **1004**, **1005** that is implementing the shared link is implementing that link at the same time that the aerial platform is schedule to be in communication range of that device **1002**, **1003**, **1004**, **1005**.

FIG. **11** is another example of a flight path that takes into account battery conservation of the communication devices. In this example, there are four groups **1102**, **1103**, **1104**, **1105** of communication devices. The planning module obtains information indicating which devices or groups would like to communicate with which other devices or groups and, optionally, the time periods during which those communications are desired. The planning module can then generate a flight plan for the aerial platform **1106** that allows a first device or group to have access to a first aerial link at the same time that a second device or group has access to a second aerial link. The planning module can also ensure that at least one network couples together the first aerial link and the second aerial link, such that the first device or group is communicatively coupled to the second device or group via the first and second aerial links. That is, the aerial link for a first group desiring to communicate with a second group can be implemented by a different aerial platform than the aerial link for the second group, if the first aerial platform and the second aerial are communicatively coupled together (e.g., via network or air-to-air link). In some examples, more than two groups of devices can be coupled together.

The flight path can also take into account a duration, frequency, or other characteristic of the communicative connection between the two devices or groups. For example, if group **1002** would like connection with group **1004** for at least 15 minutes every hour and group **1003** would like connection with group **1005** for at least 15 minutes every hour, the flight path of the aerial platform can ensure at least 15 minutes of concurrent coverage for group **1002** and group **1004** during each hour and at least 15 minutes of concurrent coverage for group **1003** and group **1005** each hour.

An example flight planning module that can be enhanced to take into account conservation of battery power of a communication device is described in U.S. Pat. No. 9,685,088, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Although the above examples describe paths and coverage predictions generated based on a generally stationary communication device communicating with a mobile other node (e.g., aerial platform), the coverage prediction can take into account mobility of a communication node as well, and/or the other node with which a communication device is communicating can be generally stationary. For example, a mobile communicating device can periodically come within range of a stationary access point, such that the coverage prediction for the mobile communicating device indicates coverage during the periods in which the mobile commu-

nicating device moves into range of the stationary access point, and sleep/wake intervals for the mobile communicating device awake a transceiver of the mobile communicating device during the interval(s) that it is in range of the access point and sleep the transceiver of the mobile communicating device during the interval(s) that it is out of range of the access point.

The threshold for when two devices are in communication range of one another can be determined in any appropriate manner. Moreover, different pairs of devices can have different thresholds for what is in and out of communication range or all pairs of devices can use the same threshold. The threshold can be the minimum signal level required to establish a link, can be a minimum link quality (e.g., minimum bandwidth, minimum signal to noise ratio, minimum bit error rate), or other factor.

In an example, the communication devices and any device implementing a planning module can communicate sleep/wake interval or coverage prediction information in accordance with a sleep/wake communication protocol. Each such communication device or other device can be configured to communicate in accordance with a common sleep/wake communication protocol enabling devices to easily communicate sleep/wake interval or coverage prediction information with each other. The sleep/wake communication protocol can have any appropriate characteristics. In an example, the sleep/wake communication protocol is based on IPv4/IPv6 protocols and includes an authentication mechanism that ensures that only authorized entities can set sleep/wake intervals for a communication device. In an example, each communication device can synchronize time using, for example, a global navigation satellite service such as GPS, or a network-based time protocol such as (NTP).

FIG. **12** is a block diagram of an example communication device **1200** having sleep/wake protocol software **1210** therein. The communication device **1200** can be any communications device that controls its transceiver in accordance with the sleep/wake intervals discussed herein. The communication device includes one or more processing devices **1202** for executing instructions **1204**. The instructions **1204** are stored (or otherwise embodied) on or in an appropriate storage medium or media **1206** (such as flash or other non-volatile memory) from which the instructions **1204** are readable by the processing device(s) **1202** for execution thereby. The communication device **1200** also includes memory **1208** that is coupled to the processing device(s) **1202** for storing instructions (and related data) during execution by the processing device(s) **1202**. Memory **1208** comprises, in one implementation, any suitable form of random access memory (RAM) now known or later developed, such as dynamic random-access memory (DRAM). In other implementations, other types of memory are used. The one or more processing devices **1202** is coupled to a first wireless transceiver **1212** and a second wireless transceiver **1214** for transmitting and receiving wireless signals with other devices as described herein.

The instructions **1204** include the sleep/wake protocol instructions **1210**. The sleep/wake protocol instructions **1210**, when executed by the one or more processing devices **1202**, can cause the communication device **1200** to perform the actions of a communication device described herein. In particular, the sleep/wake protocol instructions **1210** can cause the processing devices **1202** to control the second transceiver **1214** to sleep and wake in accordance with the sleep/wake intervals of a sleep/wake schedule as discussed herein. The instructions **1204** can also include the other instructions which, when executed by the one or more

processing devices **1202**, cause the communication device **1200** to perform other actions as desired. The one or more processing devices **1202** are also coupled to one or more input/output (I/O) devices **1216**, **1218** for receiving input from, or providing input to, a user. The I/O device(s) **1216**, **1218** can include any suitable I/O device such as a keyboard, display screen, touchscreen, mouse, touchpad, microphone, etc.

In an example, the sleep/wake protocol software for executing the sleep/wake intervals and related functions on a communication device can be a software product. The software product can include sleep/wake protocol instructions **1210** that are stored or otherwise embodied on a computer readable medium that is distinct from any processing devices, memory, and other associated hardware. Such sleep/wake protocol instructions **1210** can be loaded onto an appropriate hardware device, such as the hardware device shown in FIG. **12**, such that that hardware device implements the sleep/wake interval functions described herein. The computer readable media on which the sleep/wake protocol instructions **1210** are stored can be any suitable computer readable media such as a magnetic media such as a hard disk drive (HDD), optical media such as a CD, DVD, Blu-Ray disk, or a non-volatile electric media such as a solid-state drive (SDD), flash media, or EEPROM. Such computer readable media can be standalone media (e.g., a USB stick or CD) or can be computer readable media within a computing device (e.g., a server or network accessible storage).

A planning module software product can also be provided. The planning module software product can include planning module instructions that are stored or otherwise embodied on a computer readable medium that is distinct from any processing devices, memory, and other associated hardware. The planning module instructions can be loaded onto an appropriate hardware device (e.g., desktop, laptop, aerial platform, communication device), such that the hardware device implements the functions of the planning module described herein. The computer readable media on which the planning module instructions are stored can be any suitable computer readable media such as a magnetic media such as a hard disk drive (HDD), optical media such as a CD, DVD, Blu-Ray disk, or a non-volatile electric media such as a solid-state drive (SDD), flash media, or EEPROM. Such computer readable media can be standalone media (e.g., a USB stick or CD) or can be computer readable media within a computing device (e.g., a server or network accessible storage).

What is claimed is:

- 1.** A module for scheduling sleep/wake intervals for a mobile communication device, the module comprising:
 - a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, the instructions, when executed by one or more processing devices on the mobile communication device, cause the one or more processing devices to:
 - obtain a coverage prediction for the mobile communication device, the coverage prediction indicating a start and an end of at least one future interval during which one or more orbiting communication platforms are predicted to be within range of the mobile communication device; and
 - generate at least one future sleep interval having a start and an end and at least one future wake interval having a start and an end to control the mobile communication device based on the coverage prediction.
- 2.** The module of claim **1**, wherein obtain a coverage prediction includes generate the coverage prediction based

on predicted future locations of the mobile communication device and the one or more orbiting communication platforms.

- 3.** The module of claim **2**, wherein generate the coverage prediction includes generate a coverage prediction indicating intervals during which at least one of the one or more orbiting communication platforms is predicted to be within range of the mobile communication device.
- 4.** The module of claim **1**, wherein generate at least one future wake interval includes schedule the at least one future wake interval such that the at least one future wake interval occurs while the mobile communication device is predicted to be within communication range of at least one of the one or more orbiting communication platforms.
- 5.** The module of claim **1**, wherein generate at least one sleep interval includes schedule the at least one future sleep interval such that the at least one future sleep interval occurs while the mobile communication device is predicted to be out of range of all the one or more orbiting communication platforms.
- 6.** The module of claim **1**, wherein the mobile communication device includes one of a handheld device, a communications module in a land-based vehicle, a communications module in a water-based vehicle, or a communications module in a flying vehicle.
- 7.** The module of claim **1**, wherein the one or more orbiting communication platforms are one or more aerial communication platforms.
- 8.** A mobile communication devices comprising:
 - one or more processing devices;
 - storage media communicatively coupled to the one or more processing devices, the storage media including software stored thereon, the software, when executed by the one or more processing devices, configured to:
 - obtain a coverage prediction for the mobile communication device, the coverage prediction indicating a start and an end of at least one future interval during which one or more orbiting communication platforms are predicted to be within range of the mobile communication devices;
 - generate at least one future sleep interval having a start and an end and at least one future wake interval having a start and an end; and
 - sleep the communication device based on with the coverage prediction.
- 9.** The mobile communication device of claim **8**, wherein obtaining a coverage prediction includes generating the coverage prediction based on predicted future locations of the mobile communication device and the one or more orbiting communication platforms.
- 10.** The mobile communication device of claim **9**, wherein generating the coverage prediction includes generating a coverage prediction indicating intervals during which at least one of the one or more orbiting communication platforms is predicted to be within range of the mobile communication device.
- 11.** The mobile communication device of claim **10**, wherein generating at least one future wake interval includes scheduling the at least one future wake interval such that the at least one future wake interval occurs while the one or more mobile communication devices is predicted to be within communication range of at least one of the one or more orbiting communication platforms.
- 12.** The mobile communication device of claim **10**, wherein generating at least one future sleep interval includes scheduling the at least one future sleep interval such that the

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at least one future sleep interval occurs while the one or more mobile communication devices is predicted to be out of range of all the one or more orbiting communication platforms.

13. The mobile communication device of claim 8, wherein the mobile communication device includes one of a handheld device, a communications module in a land-based vehicle, a communications module in a water-based vehicle, or a communications module in a flying vehicle.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more orbiting communication platforms are one or more aerial communication platforms.

15. A method for scheduling sleep/wake intervals for one or more mobile communication devices, the method comprising:

generating a coverage prediction for the one or more mobile communication devices, the coverage prediction indicating a start and an end of at least one future interval during which one or more orbiting communication platforms are predicted to be within range of the one or more mobile communication devices;

generating at least one future sleep interval having a start and an end and at least one future wake interval having a start and an end to control the one or more mobile communication devices based on the coverage prediction;

sending indications of the sleep intervals and wake intervals to the one or more mobile communication devices; and

controlling sleep/wake of the one or more mobile communication devices in accordance with the sleep intervals and wake intervals.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein generating includes generating the coverage prediction based on predicted future

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locations of the one or more mobile communication devices and the one or more orbiting communication platforms.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the one or more mobile communication devices include a plurality of mobile communication devices;

wherein generating the coverage prediction includes generating a respective coverage prediction for each of the plurality of mobile communication devices, each coverage prediction indicating intervals during which at least one of the one or more orbiting communication platforms is predicted to be within range of a respective one of the plurality of mobile communication devices.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein generating at least one future wake interval includes scheduling the at least one future wake interval such that the at least one future wake interval occurs while the one or more mobile communication devices is predicted to be within communication range of at least one of the one or more orbiting communication platforms.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein generating at least one future sleep interval includes scheduling the at least one future sleep interval such that the at least one future sleep interval occurs while the one or more mobile communication devices is predicted to be out of range of all the one or more orbiting communication platforms.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the one or more mobile communication devices include one or more of a handheld device, a communications module in a land-based vehicle, a communications module in a water-based vehicle, or a communications module in a flying vehicle.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein the one or more orbiting communication platforms are one or more aerial communication platforms.

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